

Message Text

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----- 092830
R 190036Z DEC 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 4678 ACTION SECSTATE 12 DEC 75

QUOTE

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POUCHED TO TORONTO AND WINNIPEG FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, EINV, CA
SUBJ: SASKATCHEWAN INTENTIONS TOWARD POTSH INDUSTRY

REF: OTTAWA 4629

1. J. S. NUTT, DIRECTOR GENERAL, WESTERN HEMISPHERE
AFFAIRS BUREAU, EXTAFF, PHONED EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 11
AND REFERRED TO DCM'S DECEMBER 9 MEETING WITH DUPUY
AND SHANNON IN WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD DCM HAD HELD OUT
POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT USG APPROACH TO SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ON POTASH PROBLEM. NUTT SAID
HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT THIS POSSIBILITY WAS A CAUSE
OF CONCERN TO GOC AND HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY "DISCUSS"
MATTER WITH EXTAFF BEFORE UNDERTAKING SUCH AN APPROACH.

2. ECON COUNSELOR SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW USG
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HAD NO RPT NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO APPROACH PROVINCIAL

AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS ONE OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE. HE TOOKS NOTE OF NUTT'S REPRESENTATIONS AND AGREED THAT EMBASSY WOULD TOUCH BASE WITH EXTAFF BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION IN SASKATCHEWAN.

3. AS ADDENDUM TO PARA 2(D) REFTEL, FRENCH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TROCME HAS JUST RETURNED FROM PARIS WHERE HE SAT IN ON MEETINGS WHICH GOC INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE MINISTER JAIESON HAD WITH VARIOUS FRENCH MINISTERS. HE SAID FRENCH MINISTERS HAD EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN TO JAMIESON ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN WHERE FRANCE HAS IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS IN POTASH AND URANIUM (URANIUM INVESTMENT HAS NOT BEEN THREATENED WITH EXPROPRIATION, TROCME SAID, BUT IS SUBJECT TO SUCH ONEROUS TAXATION THAT IT HAS BECOME UNPROFITABLE). ACCORDING TO TROCME, JAMIESON RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FRENCH CONCERN, THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN POSITION TO DO MUCH ABOUT PROVINCIAL ACTION OF THIS KIND, BUT THAT HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD TO IMPRESS ON SASKATCHEWAN AUTHORITIES THAT WHAT THEY WERE DOING WAS AGAINST THE CANADIAN NATIONAL INTEREST. PORTER

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